

NATIONAL WEATHER
SERVICE, RENO, NV



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Gold and Silver Spotter

SUMMER / FALL 2013

Summer 2013 Recap

Summer 2013 was one for the record books. The Reno Airport had its hottest July on record and this was also the first year that the high temperature reached 105 degrees or greater 4 times in one summer (July 1, 2, 20, and 21). We also were 100 degrees or greater 12 times this summer and had a stretch of 26 consecutive days above 90 degrees, though each of these fell short of the records of 13 days (summer of 1972) and 35 consecutive days above 90 (summer of 2005). All data is from the official observations at the Reno-Tahoe Airport.

This summer also brought several monsoon pushes and closed lows to the region, leading to a number of thunderstorms and several days with flash floods, large hail, strong and gusty winds, and even a haboob (dust storm) driven by thunderstorm outflow winds. The NWS Reno office issued an above average number of Flash Flood Warnings and Severe Thunderstorms Warnings. The region also had an active fire season with many large wildfires.

A huge thank you to all our spotters for your excellent reports this summer! Some photo highlights can be found below, which were shared on our office Facebook Page. Video submissions are also welcome!



Scott M.—Lightning over Spanish Springs



Catherine B.—North Valleys Severe Hail

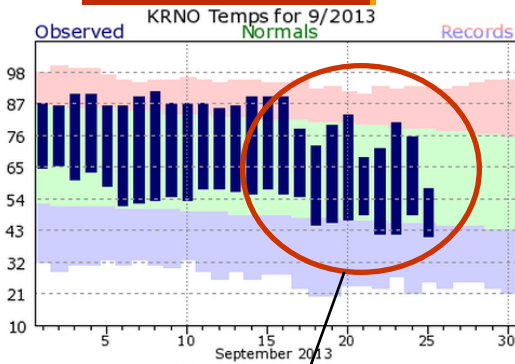


Christy W.—Flooding across American Parkway



Jonathan P. A.— Highway 447 Washout

Fall Can be a Roller Coaster



This chart shows the “roller coaster” of temperatures at the Reno Airport observed in the past 10 days.

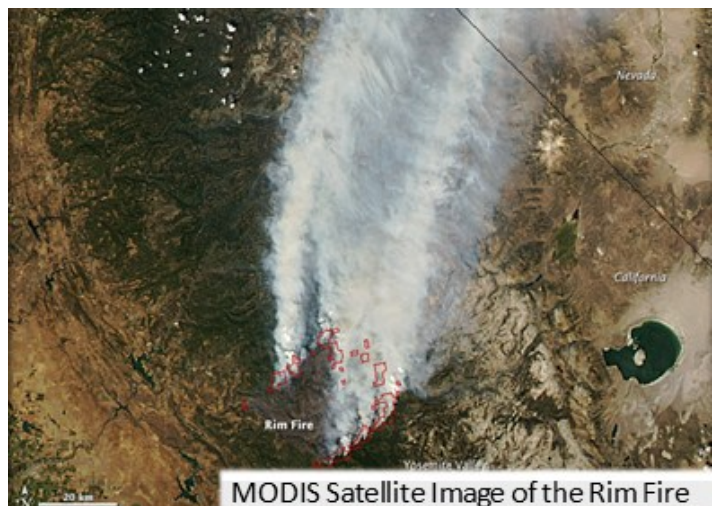
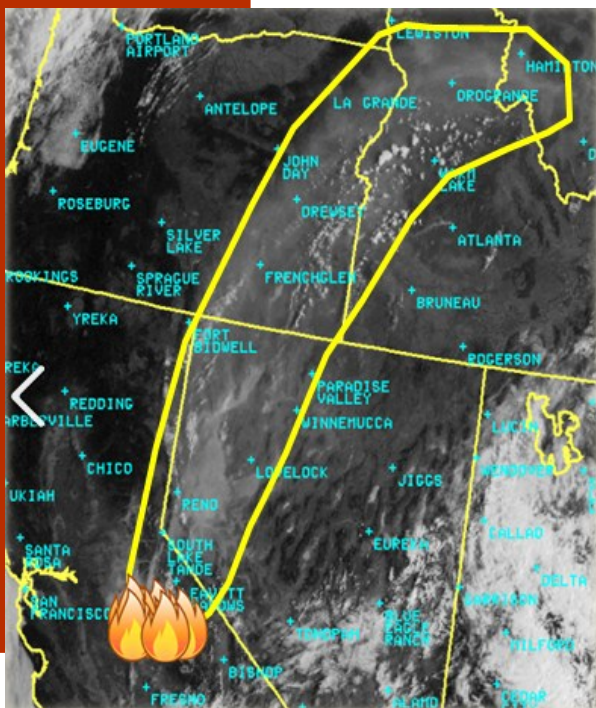
Do you ever wonder how it can be 85 degrees one day in the fall, which the next you’re waking up to snow showers? We consider the shoulder seasons, spring and fall, to be like a roller coaster due to the rapidly changing conditions we can experience here in northeast California, the Sierra,

and northwest Nevada. In the fall, our region tends to be between retreating warm air from the south and cold air advancing from the north. In addition, the polar jet stream begins its descent southward, driving storms into the west more frequently. Therefore, we tend to transition between areas of high pressure and areas of low pressure much more

rapidly than in summer or winter where high pressure or low pressure, respectively, dominates. In addition cold fronts can rapidly cool the air mass, leading to a drastic day-to-day change, but the early fall sun is still high enough in the sky to bring temperatures back up quickly. We have experienced this quite a bit in the past 10 days.

The Rim Fire and Air Quality

The Rim Fire, which burned nearly 260,000 acres, or over 400 square miles, will go down as the third largest wildfire in California history. At one point the smoke from the fire stretched clear up through Idaho, reaching the western Montana border, as shown in the visible satellite image on the bottom left. The smoke was producing very poor air quality with Air Quality Index (AQI) values reaching unsafe levels throughout several counties in the Sierra and western Nevada. The Rim Fire, while largely contained, continues to burn as of the date of this publication. For the very latest, please check out [InciWeb](#). An excellent AQI resource page is [AirNow](#) for any future air quality concerns.



YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter—New Ways to Receive Weather Information



Do you like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), or watch informative videos on our [YouTube](#) channel? If not, now is a great time to start! Our office continues to become more interactive through social media and will be putting out even more information as we progress into winter. Of course, our traditional [webpage](#) continues to be one of the best sources of information out there for local weather.

Curious about the forecast outlook for this winter? Check out this [YouTube briefing](#)!

We held a photo contest this summer on our Facebook page where our followers could submit any weather related photo. These were put together in an album and then the photos were voted on by our followers “liking” them. The prize was becoming our new cover photo, and this summer’s winner can be found below. Future contests will be held!



Photo by Jeffery S.

WEA Messages on Phones

Many of you have noticed the new cell phone alerts that are now showing up on your cell phones. These are known as Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEAs, and can be issued by government issuing authorities through your mobile carrier. WEAs can keep you safe by alerting you of significant weather any time of the day without needing to download an app or subscribe to a service. There is absolutely no charge to receive these messages and you can opt out of all messages outside of presidential alerts. To see which weather messages are part of this service, please see the chart on the back page of this newsletter. If you are interested in finding out more about this service please check out this [FAQs](#) document.





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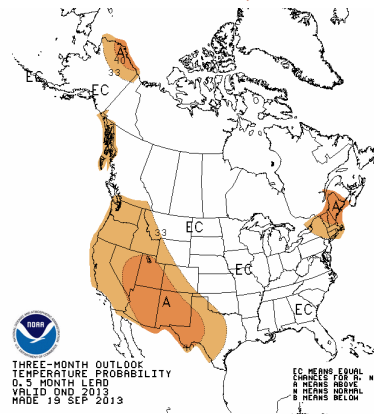
E-mail: Dawn.Johnson@noaa.gov or

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**Working Together to
Save Lives**

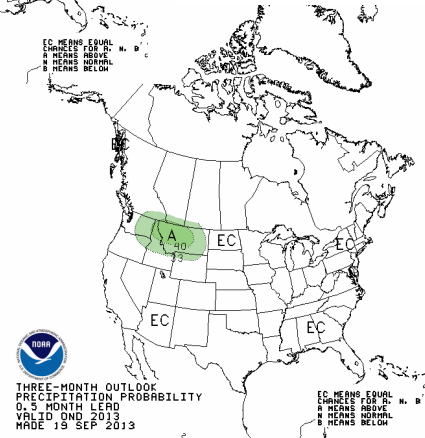
Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Fall 2013-2014 Outlook, valid

October, November, December



Left: Three month temperature probability outlook showing better chances for above normal temperatures.

Right: Three month precipitation probability outlook showing equal chances for above or below normal precipitation.



WEA continued from page 3:

WEA Messages Originated by NWS

Warning Type	CMAS Message
Tsunami Warning (coming late 2013)	Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland. Check local media. -NWS
Tornado Warning	Tornado Warning in this area til hh:mm tzT. Take shelter now. Check local media. -NWS
Extreme Wind Warning	Extreme Wind Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Take shelter. -NWS
Flash Flood Warning	Flash Flood Warning this area til hh:mm tzT. Avoid flooded areas. Check local media. -NWS
Hurricane Warning	Hurricane Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Check local media and authorities. -NWS
Typhoon Warning	Typhoon Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Check local media and authorities. -NWS
Blizzard Warning	Blizzard Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Prepare. Avoid Travel. Check media. -NWS
Ice Storm Warning	Ice Storm Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Prepare. Avoid Travel. Check media. -NWS
Dust Storm Warning	Dust Storm Warning in this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Avoid travel. Check local media. -NWS

Legend

tzT = timezone

ddd= three letter abbreviation for day of the week